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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council on consultations with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international organizations associated with the United Nations	2
	A. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	2
	B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	3
	C. International Monetary Fund	3
	D. United Nations Children's Fund	4
	E. United Nations Development Programme	5
	F. United Nations Population Fund	7
	G. World Health Organization	8

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2010/30, the Economic and Social Council requested the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact with the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on the matters considered in that resolution and to report thereon to the Council.

2. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 65/110, the General Assembly requested that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories. In the same resolution, the Assembly commended the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on the question, and requested it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly.

3. The following 16 Territories are under the purview of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara. Information submitted in response to a request to the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations to provide an account of their activities in relation to Non-Self-Governing Territories is set out below.

II. Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international organizations associated with the United Nations

4. According to the information received, during the period under review, several specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continued to provide support to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories pursuant to the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee.

A. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

5. Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean regularly participate in activities sponsored by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in their capacity as associate members of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee. As of January 2011, the associate members were: Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

6. During 2010, representatives of Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands attended five meetings or workshops, including a subregional meeting on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, held in Port of Spain on 9 and 10 November 2010; a subregional workshop on the same subject, held in Port of Spain on 11 and 12 November 2010; a meeting on promoting energy efficiency in the Caribbean, held in Port of Spain on 13 and 14 May 2010; the five-year Caribbean regional review meeting on the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Grenada on 16 and 18 March 2010; and the twenty-third session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, held in Grenada on 15 and 17 March 2010. Another ECLAC project, "Review of the Economics of Climate Change in the Caribbean", includes studies on tourism, health and transport in Montserrat as well as on water-related issues in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

7. Non-Self-Governing Territories have also benefited from technical assessments on the socio-economic impact of disasters, trade integration, vital statistics and tourism sector development conducted by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

8. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) indicated that, during the period under review, it continued to provide support to fisheries divisions and departments of Pacific islands countries and Territories in their endeavours to implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. In this connection, early in 2010 FAO, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, published guidelines for a community-based ecosystem approach to fisheries management. The guidelines, which are expected to be used widely in the Pacific region, were distributed to the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the United States of America and France, including American Samoa, Guam and New Caledonia.

9. With regard to combating hunger and malnutrition, FAO continued its work to improve national and regional capacities for addressing prevention and early warning of animal and plant diseases and food-safety threats. Among these efforts is the ongoing FAO project in Western Sahara aimed at strengthening systems for the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases in the Maghreb region. The objective of the project is to improve animal health services and coordinate disease surveillance and control programmes. The project forms part of FAO emergency prevention systems, mandated to address prevention and early warning across the entire food chain.

C. International Monetary Fund

10. According to information provided by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Non-Self-Governing Territories, which are not members of the Fund in full standing, do not benefit from the annual consultations on economic policies under the IMF Articles of Agreement (article IV consultations), which are the main vehicle

for the ongoing relationship of the Fund with its member countries. However, two Territories, Anguilla and Montserrat, as members of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union and the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre, are part of the discussion on common policies among member countries in the context of the annual regional surveillance exercise with the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union. On the basis of information provided to IMF by the Currency Union and analysed in the context of that exercise, IMF compiles economic and financial information on those two Territories and publishes the data in the country pages of *International Financial Statistics*. The IMF staff mission charged with conducting discussions on the common policies of countries members of the Currency Union visited Anguilla and Montserrat for the first time in March 2009 and held discussions with the respective relevant authorities on the economic situation and prospects. Within the framework of its relationship with the Currency Union and the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre, the Fund has provided substantial technical assistance to Anguilla and Montserrat in the areas of public finance management and economic and financial statistics.

11. Furthermore, several Non-Self-Governing Territories have offshore financial sectors that represent a substantial share of their economic activity. These Territories have been directly affected by increasing international attention to anti-money-laundering activities and combating the financing of terrorism. In this context, most have benefited from IMF assessments of financial sector supervision and regulation, which are presented in a summary report on the implementation of the indicated financial sector regulatory standards. These assessments, developed to help jurisdictions identify and remedy weaknesses in financial sector supervision and regulation, have been prepared for Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

D. United Nations Children's Fund

12. Information on the work carried out by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the Pacific region indicated that UNICEF supports the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Guam, New Caledonia, Pitcairn and Tokelau through a programme covering the period 2008-2012 aimed at assisting Governments in the progressive realization of the rights of children. During the period under review, UNICEF supported these Territories in the following five main areas: immunization strengthening; HIV/AIDS; response to the global economic crisis; food and nutrition security; and pandemic preparedness. UNICEF works closely with a wide range of partners, including donors, Pacific organizations and a network of non-governmental organizations, to ensure that rights-based, evidence-informed development programming and monitoring is carried out in all Pacific countries and in the Territories.

13. UNICEF acts as the secretariat of the Pacific Immunization Programme Strengthening Partnerships, bringing together key partners and all Pacific island countries and Territories to review immunization coverage and progress towards the 2012 goals, including continued vigilance aimed at maintaining zero polio, the elimination of measles and control of hepatitis B, and the 2015 goals. To this end, during the reporting period, UNICEF worked closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Australian Agency for International

Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to document status and gaps and assist each Territory in remaining on course. Meetings of the Pacific Immunization Programme Strengthening Partnerships have been held annually since 2005, with the most recent meeting held in Nadi, Fiji, in August 2010.

14. UNICEF worked with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other Pacific subregional partners to support a framework that facilitates adequate prevention and care with regard to HIV/AIDS in the context of a low-prevalence environment. As a result of this work, rapid HIV testing services will be provided in most Pacific island countries and the Territories.

15. In February 2010, UNICEF and other partners supported the Pacific Conference on the Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis, at which the implications of the crisis were reviewed. The Conference adopted a pragmatic outcome document containing clear advice to countries and Territories on the options and choices that were available to them to protect children, women and vulnerable individuals and groups. Each country and Territory left the Conference with an outline of actions to strengthen the social protection floor for their respective populations. Delegations from American Samoa, Guam, New Caledonia and Tokelau were represented at the meeting.

16. In April 2010, UNICEF, FAO, WHO and other partners supported the Pacific Food Summit to review issues related to production, trade, safety and access to quality food and nutrition for all Pacific communities. The framework for action developed in this context outlines the responsibilities of Governments, the private sector and families in ensuring food and nutrition security in Pacific island countries and the Territories. Delegations from American Samoa, Guam, New Caledonia and Tokelau participated in the meeting.

17. During the reporting period, UNICEF, WHO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community continued to work closely to strengthen communication for pandemic prevention and response.

E. United Nations Development Programme

18. With a view to the implementation of resolutions 65/109, 65/110 and 65/117, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) offered assistance in two main areas: disaster risk reduction and climate change, and poverty assessment and reduction, thus ensuring knowledge-sharing across the Territories.

19. In order to improve the resilience of small islands to natural hazards, a new subregional project, the Regional Risk Reduction Initiative, has been developed in Latin America and the Caribbean. It emphasizes intraregional learning and sharing of tools, knowledge and best practices to enhance the Territories' individual and collective capacities to predict and prepare for natural hazards. It covers a total of nine territories, including Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The European Union has provided $5 million in funding for the Initiative over a period of three years (2009-2011).

20. In the Cayman Islands, the aim of the project is to provide support for the geographic information system (GIS). The project also provides support for procurement and contracts covering several countries. Two exceptions are the aerial

survey of Anguilla, with GIS capacity-building, and the coastal hazard analysis for the British Virgin Islands, with tsunami and storm surge modelling. In both of those cases, however, lessons learned will be shared with other islands.

21. The UNDP Community-Centred Sustainable Development Programme in the Asia-Pacific region provides support for gender initiatives focusing on environmental management; disaster risk reduction; climate change adaptation; eco-cultural tourism; food security; energy efficiency and renewable energy use. The Community-Centred Sustainable Development Programme helped all three atolls in the Pacific become more resilient in the face of the adverse impacts of climate change (for example, rising sea levels) and natural disasters by scaling up soft and hard climate change protection barriers (for example, sea walls) around atoll coastal areas.

22. In the area of poverty monitoring and the Millennium Development Goals, a poverty assessment and reduction programme in the Caribbean continues to support overseas countries and territories. With a view to facilitating knowledge-sharing and capacity-building among practitioners for the establishment and enhancement of national and subregional poverty monitoring efforts, a draft toolkit was created for monitoring poverty and the Millennium Development Goals in the Caribbean.

23. In Anguilla, UNDP provided support to the Government, at its request, for assistance in the formulation of a national development strategy. UNDP presented for its consideration a concept note outlining broad and inclusive approaches and processes, which would include detailed information regarding all development actors/leaders across all sectors of Anguillan society. The concept note also proposed consensus-building and conflict resolution efforts to address diverse national interests.

24. In Montserrat, UNDP provided support for a review of emergency telecommunications capacities. This study was requested and supported in the framework of consultations with all relevant Montserrat stakeholders. Outputs of the study included a complete inventory of Montserrat telecommunications equipment, with gaps identified. A strategy to support the upgrading of the telecommunications systems of Montserrat in the short, medium and long terms, including technical specifications, was also addressed. UNDP proposed the provision of integrated and harmonized support through donor cost-share interventions.

25. In Tokelau UNDP activities were supported by the Office of the Resident Coordinator and the country team. Eight United Nations agencies have dedicated programmes, including: UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and WHO.

26. The total United Nations assistance package for Tokelau for the period 2008-2012 is approximately $1.4 million, the bulk of which ($1.1 million) comes from UNDP. UNICEF and UNFPA provide two types of support: equipment and supplies; and capacity-building for training in adolescent and reproductive health as well as in immunization and child protection programmes. UNIFEM, UNISDR, and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs provide some support through the funding of the participation of Tokelau in regional workshops and

training courses. In addition, the UNDP Community-Centred Sustainable Development Programme funded the participation by two Tokelauan representatives in the United Nations Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen. This served to raise the profile of Tokelau — one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change — at the international level. UNDP and the Government of France continue to support Tokelau's drive towards 100 per cent photovoltaic power; the Government is committed to raising funds to that end.

F. United Nations Population Fund

27. The UNFPA Subregional Office for the Caribbean provided information on the cooperation of the Agency with Anguilla, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands in the period from 2009 to 2011. The assistance provided by UNFPA to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean is in line with broader subregional priorities identified by the Caribbean Community and Governments during the fifteenth anniversary review process relating to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, carried out in 2009, and the fifth general meeting between the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community and its associated institutions. During that review process the following key challenges were identified: the need to address the demands and the rights of Caribbean youth with a sense of urgency; the HIV pandemic; gender equality; and the lack of the reliable quality data needed for development planning. In response to resolutions 65/109, 65/110 and 65/117 pertaining to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, UNFPA provided assistance to Anguilla, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

28. On 12 May 2010, the Director of the Subregional Office of the Caribbean visited Anguilla to introduce the UNFPA mandate and identify strategic interventions in the Territory. In the period from 2009 to 2011, the Agency provided cooperation to the Territory in the amount of $31,098.00 in the following areas: youth; HIV prevention; gender equality; and population and development.

29. UNFPA activities in Anguilla encompassed technical cooperation on matters affecting young people, including increased youth awareness of sexual and reproductive health issues, the establishment of the first "youth-friendly space", which involved the provision of training to site coordinators, and South-South cooperation with the Youth-Friendly Service of Guyana.

30. In addition, UNFPA contributed towards the implementation of the comprehensive condom programming project on HIV prevention in Anguilla, including the carrying out of a rapid assessment on condom programming. In the area of national capacity-building, the Agency provided training to nursing students, as well as to national AIDS programme staff and the national disaster management unit, on sexual and reproductive health and HIV, in particular in humanitarian settings.

31. In the area of gender equality, UNFPA contributed to capacity-building and awareness-raising on gender equality issues by training staff of the newly created Gender Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Home Affairs and ensuring their participation in the workshop on the theme "Gender in emergencies", held in Barbados.

32. In the context of the forthcoming census in 2011, UNFPA provided technical assistance to the Anguilla Statistical Office in preparation for the census workplan.

33. In Bermuda, the UNFPA Subregional Office for the Caribbean carried out a comprehensive condom programme, which consisted of rapid assessment, enhancing the capacities of health practitioners with regard to HIV and increasing awareness and knowledge on HIV prevention through training for those groups in the population most at risk.

34. In the Cayman Islands, UNFPA continues to provide assistance in enhancing capacities in condom programming and census operations. Assistance was also provided through regional advisers from the UNFPA Subregional Office. It was complemented with funds in the amount of $4,855. UNFPA assistance to the Cayman Islands focused on sexual and reproductive health, including HIV prevention, increasing knowledge about condom use, conducting a rapid assessment of condom programming and organizing a training workshop on comprehensive condom programming for health practitioners and organizations. In the area of population and development, UNFPA supported capacity development for census operations through a training-of-trainers workshop for the 2010 population and housing census of the Cayman Islands.

35. In Montserrat, the UNFPA Subregional Office for the Caribbean provided technical assistance for the upcoming census operations. It focused on building national capacity in this area through training-of-trainer courses for supervisors and interviewers from the National Statistics Directorate and through South-South cooperation involving the Statistics Office of Trinidad and Tobago. To guarantee quality standards, UNFPA, together with the Population Division of ECLAC, assisted in the revision of census manuals.

36. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, the UNFPA Subregional Office Adviser on Data provided assistance to the personnel of the National Statistics Office and others for capacity-building on census processing. Funding in the amount of $2,300 was allocated for the workshop. The population and housing census of the Turks and Caicos Islands is to take place during 2011.

G. World Health Organization

37. WHO reported that in 2010, it had carried out collaborative activities on various health-related issues in American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Tokelau and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The main goals of those activities were to provide support in the areas of strengthening health systems and quality services, ensuring equitable access and reducing vulnerability to preventable morbidity and mortality. Technical assistance was provided through training courses, workshops, assessments and surveys, as well as through financial support for the purchase of new equipment and the participation of national experts in regional and global meetings.

38. WHO activities in American Samoa focused on introducing syndrome surveillance to strengthen communicable disease surveillance and early warning systems for outbreaks. WHO supported the introduction of a mental health programme in a local hospital in the Territory. Furthermore, human resources for health were supported through the provision of fellowships to two medical doctors.

39. With regard to Anguilla, WHO activities focused on the development of human resources for health by offering training on quality assurance assessment, the provision of health services and the costing of the national health plan. Training courses were organized for managerial-level professionals, coders and physicians in the public and private sectors, including in the area of child and adolescent dental health. A mass-casualty-management course was provided to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters and other hazards.

40. In Bermuda, WHO supported the strengthening of the health sector through disease surveillance system assessment reports and the provision of training for health personnel in the area of outbreak investigation. Financial assistance was made available to ensure the participation of experts from Bermuda at several regional workshops and meetings.

41. In the British Virgin Islands, WHO offered training for coders and physicians in the public and private sectors. In the area of adolescent health, technical assistance was provided through a general assessment of the health information system.

42. Activities in the Cayman Islands focused on pilot training in men's health and strengthening laboratory support for HIV diagnostics. Within the framework of local capacities, assistance was made available for the strengthening of nursing programmes through the assessment of existing capacity, legislation and training programmes. WHO also supported the Cayman Islands 20/20 health-care conference, held in November 2010. The participation of nationals of the Cayman Islands was ensured in numerous regional meetings, workshops and international conferences.

43. WHO activities in Guam addressed issues related to human resources and health through the creation of fellowship programmes. In addition, an event entitled "Scaling-up action in the Pacific: a subregional workshop on nutrition, diet and lifestyle" was co-hosted by the Guam Department of Health, in collaboration with WHO and others.

44. After reviewing the existing situation in Montserrat, WHO supported the development of its human resources in the area of health and offered guidance for the drafting of the national strategic plan. The Agency assisted in the completion of a general assessment of the health information system and the administration of an essential public health function tool, for which training was provided.

45. In New Caledonia, pursuant to a request by the Government, WHO collaborative activities focused on technical assistance, including with regard to the influenza A (H1N1) pandemic in 2009 and the related coordination of the exchange of information in the Pacific.

46. In Tokelau, WHO provided support to train two medical doctors to meet the needs of the health services in the near future. Major activities carried out by WHO in the Territory included village-level non-communicable-disease programmes and national programmes to raise awareness regarding diet, nutrition and exercise. The anti-tobacco programme was supported through national activities and the promotion of, inter alia, nicotine replacement therapy. A national influenza A (H1N1) vaccination campaign reached 1,445 people (92 per cent of the total population). Mental health training under the WHO Pacific Islands Mental Health Network was provided through joint clinical consultations and reviews with medical

officers on each of the three atolls in Tokelau. A major mission of the Capital and Coast District Health Board, New Zealand, was carried out jointly with WHO.

47. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, WHO supported national health authority initiatives to increase the awareness among the general population of the importance of vaccination, as well as vaccination outreach activities. WHO continued its support in the area of communicable diseases by updating the national communicable diseases manual, supporting the cholera preparedness assessment, evaluating the HIV surveillance system and organizing several training workshops related to HIV response. To establish an evidence base for improved decision-making, the development of new policies and the opening of new hospitals, WHO provided substantial financial and technical support for completion of the WHO Assessment Instrument for Mental Health Systems. In addition, support was made available for the assessment of the health information system and training in mass-casualty management.